

From: justin ouwerkerk <justin@trekstorecincinnati.com>
Subject: **I Support the Proposed Rule Change for 36 CFR 4.30**
Date: January 7, 2009 12:15:21 PM MST
To: npsrule@imba.com
Reply-To: justin ouwerkerk <justin@trekstorecincinnati.com>

Jan 7, 2009

National Park Service

Dear Park Service,

Thank you for accepting my comments concerning RIN 1024-AD72, the National Park Service rule change for bicycling. I fully support the proposed rule.

The special regulations process that restricts bicycling on trails is

unduly burdensome and duplicates protections that are already addressed by the NPS General Management Plan and the National Environmental Policy Act.

This proposed rule would give park superintendents better tools for opening trails to bicycling. It would also treat bicycles like other non-motorized trail uses, such as horseback riding.

Independent scientific studies, including those conducted by the

National Park Service, have shown the environmental impacts of mountain biking are similar to those of hiking, and far less than other uses.

The best research regarding social interactions on trails reveals those who encounter other user groups report very favorably on their interactions. Claims otherwise are unsupported by scientific data.

Shared-use trails are a successful management tool worldwide. NPS staff are skilled at selecting appropriate trails for shared-use by hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians.

This rule will aid visitor enjoyment for both children and adults.

Bicycling broadens the recreational offerings and gets Americans out of their cars and into the natural world. It connects people of all ages with the natural environment and is a fun, low-impact activity.

Improving opportunities for bicycling and promoting trails tourism could benefit economic conditions for nearby communities.

Mountain bikers are prolific volunteers--conducting nearly one million hours of trailwork on public lands annually--and could help build environmentally sound, sustainable trails.

Thank you for considering my comment. Bicycling is a wonderful way to explore our national parks and I hope the proposed rule change will be implemented.

Sincerely,

Mr. justin ouwerkerk
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